

Testimony by George Johnston DDS, Dillon Mt. representing the Montana Board of Dentistry

Points made by board of dentistry concerning their vote to NOT support HB 572:

1. Reducing the number of dentists on the board does not comply with the regulatory purpose of the board and citizen complaints could not be adequately addressed with only two dentists on the board. It will reduce the responsiveness to license needs and citizen complaints causing more red tape bureaucracy. Expert witnesses-dentists- would have to be consulted on many cases for the public members to make an informed judgment. There would not be enough broad based dental knowledge on the board to advise the board on the complex dental issues.
2. Reducing the number of total board members and dentist board members would affect the quorum required by the board to conduct business. For example, if both dentists were unavailable for a board meeting, decisions would be made by the Mt. Board of Dentistry without the input of the dentists.
3. If the bill were adopted as written, the Board of Dentistry would be composed of two dentists and three public members.
4. The majority of the complaints reviewed by the screening panel are against dentists. It is important to have the experience and expertise of dentists involved in these deliberations, and reducing the number of dentists on the board would be detrimental to the process.
5. If the bill were adopted as written, the Board of Dentistry would be composed of two dentists and three public members.
6. The present public members on the board voted with the majority on the board to oppose this bill!
7. The present board is functioning well.